



Task Force B Meeting Summary

Monday, July 25, 2005

Participants: Jane Marshall (Chair) – Food Bank Council of Michigan, Alethia Carr – MI Department of Community Health, Janet Cushman – MI Department of Human Services, Martha Gonzales-Cortes – MI Department of Human Services, Giancarlo Guzman – Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health, Marla Moss – MI Department of Education, Terri Stangl – Center for Civil Justice, and Jan Williams – MI Department of Human Services.

Public: Craig Harris – Michigan State University, Stephanie Johnson-Wuttke – Capital Services, Amee Miller – Allen Neighborhood Center, and Michelle Smith – Capital Services.

The first Task Force B: Improving Access to Fresh and Healthy Foods convened Monday, July 25, 2005 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at Constitution Hall in Lansing. Council Member Jane Marshall chaired the meeting.

Ms. Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and welcomed the Task Force Participants and public to the first Task Force B Meeting. Those present introduced themselves and described their work. Ms. Marshall explained the Task Force's charge and went over the "Defining Task Forces" document with the participants. Task Force B is responsible for researching programs and policies that increase access to fresh and healthy foods to all Michigan residents especially school children, low-income and/or at-risk seniors and families, and urban residents. Ms. Marshall stressed that given the short time frame and the Executive Order goals assigned to the Task Force that there is a lot of work to accomplish. The Executive Order goals assigned to Task Force B are:

1. Increasing access to fresh and healthy Michigan-grown foods, including for school children, low-income families, at-risk seniors, and inner-city residents.
2. Strengthening Michigan's urban and rural areas with food-related revitalization projects.
3. Recommending approaches that maximize coordination of existing federal, state, and local resources and capture additional federal resources for Michigan.*
4. Make recommendations to MDA on the adoption of policies to advance the goals for the Council in the Order.*
5. Identifying strategies to increase collaboration and communication between state agencies in the delivery of food-related programs and evaluation of collaborative opportunities.*
6. Develop and adopt 6-month, 12-month, and 18-month recommended action plan for achieving the goals of the Council.*

*Assigned to all four Task Forces.

Ms. Marshall then lead the participants in a discussion about the objectives and activities the Task Force would work towards to fulfill the Executive Order goals. Participants agreed to work on objectives relating to food stamp participation rates, access to fresh and healthy foods in urban neighborhoods, inter-agency collaborations, and federal fund procurement. Participants also proposed and agreed to add objectives that address nutrition and food safety education, child nutrition program participation rates, and encouraging/supporting private/public partnerships.

After much discussion about possible issues to explore, participants agreed to work on activities regarding Project Fresh, Senior Project Fresh, WIC, food stamps, and other child nutrition programs. The participants decided to not work on an activity related to urban grocery stores and recommended Task Force A: Increasing Food-Related Businesses and Jobs could work on it. Participants were also interested in a "Fair Share" assessment and food stamp access issues at farmers' markets.

A timeline to reach the activities and objectives was not set during the meeting and participants acknowledged that the activities and to some degree the objectives will fluctuate over time. Staff will revise and fine tune the objectives to reflect the recommended changes and participants agreed to review them before the next full Council Meeting, so that Ms. Marshall can give an accurate report of the work accomplished in the first Task Force B meeting.

The next Task Force B meeting is slated for September - date and time to be determined.